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Subject: BUKLAZOVICH, Mihail - of 221 N. Tabor Rd, Philadelphia, Pa 19120,  
his trip to the Ukr SSR in July-Aug-Sept 1969

Date : 26 Mar 1970

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

1. Subject is US citizen of Ukrainian descent, born 10 Feb 1915 in Stryi, West Ukraine, married, has two children (son and daughter, Pavlo and Lidia, respectively), active in Ukrainian social life, particularly among Ukrainians from Bukovina, where he grew up and lived prior to his resettlement to Austria in 1944. Also while in Bukovina Subject was active in Ukrainian political life and maintained contacts with OUN-Melnikivtsi. In Bucarest Subject studied gymnaestics for 4 years. His Mother lives in Vyzhenka, Vyzhnetsky r-n, obl. Chernivtsi and he visited her together with his 13 year old son last summer.

In Apr 1945 Subject arrived in Salzburg, his train happened to be bombed, his luggage and documents lost, he himself was wounded and for some time had to stay in hospital. After WW II Subject lived in Salzburg, in a DP camp. While in Salzburg Subject used to write to emigré papers under the pseudonym "Puhach". Also in this country he used to contribute to various Ukrainian papers. <sup>primarily America</sup> ~~of Philadelphia~~ and "Svoboda" of New Jersey City, ~~in Bukovina~~, approx. 1,000 pages monography on this particular Ukrainian territory, to which the Society for cultural contacts with Ukrainians abroad responded with a 30 pages critical "reply".

2. Subject filed an application for Soviet visa in March 1968 and was granted one in June 1969 with a permit to stay with his mother in Vyzhenka for 3 months. Together with his son he left for JFK on 10 July 1969 to proceed on his scheduled itinerary New York - Zurich-Kiev - Lvov by air, and then to Chernivtsi and Vyzhnytsia by train. On arrival at JFK Subject discovered that his travel agency did not in time deliver at the Airport some necessary documents and he had to turn back to Philadelphia, Pa. After two days the "mixup" was cleared up and Subject left with his son on a new itinerary New York - Paris - Vienna - Kiev - Lvov by air and then again by train to Chernivtsi and Vyzhnytsia.

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In Vienna Subject missed his plane for Kiev and instead was put by Aeroflot people on a Romanian ~~plane~~ to Bucarest. From Bucarest he took a train to Chernivtsi, and from ~~by~~ taxi went to his mother's place at Vyzhenka. On his way back from Ukraine Subject took again train to Bucarest and then continued by air.

While in the Ukraine Subject visited beside Vyzhenka also Chernivtsi, Kosiv, Putyla, and in Rumania he stopped at Bucarest to say hallo to the Rector of his university whom he knew from "old times".

3. One week after Subject's and his son's stay at Vyzhenka he was approached by two KGB officers, a colonel from Chernivtsi and a lieutenant from nearby Vyzhnytsia. Both were very friendly and polite. The talk was conducted by the colonel, his colleague mainly listened. The Colonel asked Subject when he left Bukovina, where he lived in the West, what he was doing there. Then the colonel told the Subject "their version" of Subject's biography which he had to correct in some places.

Among other things the Colonel was well informed about Subject's participation in the publication of "Bukovina" and complained about distortions and anti-Soviet slanders in the book. After Subject's reply that he did not even one single line write in the "Bukovina" and was mainly concerned with administrative matters, the Colonel switched over to a "similar" topic complaining about Ukrainian tourists from the West who as a rule always write only about negative aspects of the Soviet Ukrainian reality and completely omit the positive ones.

The Colonel also asked Subject about some of Subject's friends and acquaintances in the West, among others, about Arkadi ZHUKOWSKY of Paris (leading OUN M member), Petro VOINOVSKY of Newark, N.J., Iwan ZHUKOVSKY of New York, N.Y., and Vasil LUHOVY of Montreal, Quebec; all connected with OUN - M.

There was a suggestion that Subject should visit Kiev and the Colonel was ready to make all necessary arrangements. However, Subject politely resigned from this opportunity.

2. In his reportage Subject wrote for "Svoboda" after his return from Ukraine, he claimed to have had two more meetings with the two KGB officers. He also refers to the Colonel as to "Ivan" and his colleague as "Vasch." Both were Ukrainian, the Lt. Col. claimed to be from Bukovina and a graduate of Historico-Philosophical Faculty of Chernivtsi University. Subject also

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described the Lieutenant as "more friendly". The latter visited next day ~~Subject~~ (after the first encounter) Subject at his mother's home and told him that Subject's brother from Rumania was not among those who crossed the border today and therefore suggested he would take Subject to Putyla. Subject politely refused to go and instead they agreed to meet same evening at Vyzhnytsia. At the meeting was again the Colonel and he continued to lead the conversation. This time, however, he was less polite and after giving a lecture about how bad <sup>were</sup> <sup>also</sup> Ukrainian partisans, and <sup>also</sup> some of Subject's friends whom he described as German collaborators, ~~also~~ (VOINOVSKY, LUHOVY, POLUY), accused Subject of working with Ukrainian Central Committee of Kubiyovych during the WW II. It turned out that the KGB had a UCC identity card issued to Subject in 1941 and which went lost in April 1945 in Salzburg during the bombardment. It was shown now by the Colonel to Subject who had to correct that this was only "an identification card" issued at that time to all Ukrainians.

Another charge the Colonel had in store was his writings in Ukrainian emigree press ~~xxxx~~ while in the DP camp in Salzburg. The Colonel mentioned that Subject wrote at that time anti-Soviet articles under the pseudonym Voren. After Subject denied that he ever wrote anything under Voren, the Colonel replied that then "maybe under some other bird like Puhack". Subject did not deny that.

The third meeting with the two KGB officers took place one Sunday when Subject left with his son for Kosiv. There he was approached by the Lieutenant who told him that Subject's brother from Rumania was ~~житељем~~ at the border crossing point and Subject could meet him. On Lieutenant's suggestion they went together back to Vyzhnytsia, picked up there the Colonel, then proceeded to the border point, picked up "on the Colonel's personal warrant" Subject's brother and brought him to Vysnitsa. This time, however, according to Subject there was no "debate" with the KGB and the real third meeting took place at the end of Subject's sojourn in Vysnitsa when he came to Militia Office to report his departure.

Then he was asked to the second floor and there met again the Colonel. The Colonel complained against the visitors from the West who always write about Soviet shortcomings and other negative features of Soviet life, and charged Subject with having written an unfavorable report on Soviet Pavilion at the Expo 1967 in Montreal which was published in "Amerika".

On this occasion Subject was also told about a group of Ukrainian students from the USA, from Philadelphia, Pa who took part at the Student Congress in Munich, and among whom were many numbered to lectures given by the NKVD and KGB.

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"But they did not go far - the Colonel continued - we stopped them right in Vinnytsia and turned back". ( N.B. The reference was made to Berezhnytsky group.)

At the end the Colonel stressed that in the future if Subject wanted a Soviet visa again this would depend on what he will write about his stay in the Ukraine this time.

So much, Subject himself, in his still unpublished in Svoboda article in which he also included several chapters on obviously positive aspects of the Soviet Ukrainian reality. Those chapters read; "Evident Changes", "Construction of Roads and Bridges", "Introduction of Electricity and Gas", "Bus Transportation", "New Buildings", "Use of Mineral Waters", "Medical Service", "Education",

Those chapters are "balanced" with critical review of other aspects of Soviet life. The article had 44 pages and then the author <sup>had</sup> additional 6 pages of various "Reflections" in which he also included a negative appraisal of the Ukrainian Underground in Bukovina after WW II, under the subtitle; "Losses ~~inflicted by~~ Foreign, Our Own, and the Typhus".

3. In his reportage Subject did not mention some other discussions with the Colonel about which he told other sources. During one of the ~~meetings~~ the Colonel suggested that Subject should write a book on Bukovina in which he would prove that Bukovina was always Slavic, Ukrainian and Rumanian pretensions to that area were completely unjustified. The Colonel stressed several times that Rumanians are after Bukovina and a well elaborated scholarly book ~~is~~ needed. The Colonel gave Subject a bibliography of material to be used for the writing of the book, including various sources in Prague and Vienna libraries. The book should be published abroad.

4. Following is the gist of "on the spot" information given by Subject

a/ The landing of US Astronauts on the Moon was deliberately downplayed in Soviet local press and radio. Contrary to Rumanian press and radio which gave a very favorable, almost enthusiastic coverage to that event such local papers in Bukovina as "Radianska Verkhovyna" ( 6,000 copies) of Vyshnytsia ( published three times a week), "Bukovynski Karpaty", of Putyla, and even "Radianska Ukraine" of Chernivtsi hardly mentioned it in short notes. However, there was not only great interest but even greater admiration for the US achievement. People have some expectation of further developments.

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b/ The flood on June 16/17 inflicted large damages in Chernobyl River Valley. According to hear-say about 300 people perished.

There were complaints that authorities failed to take any preventive measures against the extent of flood. Some people commented that while "we are building huge Aswan Dam in Egypt we can't put up even a small dam on Cheremosh.."

c/ Wages and prices. Manual workers, clerks, low administrative personnel earn from Rubel 60.- to 90.- per month. Drivers, technicians, teachers, engineers, physicians from over Rubel 100,00 to Rubel 350.- p.m. Thus, a driver who works 178 hours, gets Rubel 120.-, a teacher - Rubel 120. to R. 130.-; a physician - R.200.-, surgeon - R.260.- to 350.-

1 kg of veal - R 1.90

" pork - R 1.20 - 1.80

1 l milk - R 0.20

1 egg - 0.10

1 bread - 0.17 - 0.25

1kg bacon - R 3.00 ( same butter, cheese)

1 chicken - R 3.00 to 4.00

Beer - 0.35 to 0.45

1 p of shoes - R. 30.- to 50.-

1 shirt - R. 8.- 15.-

1 Kerchief - R. 18.- to 20.-

1 plastic trenchcoat - R.60.-

1 suit or coat - from R. 80.- to 150.-

Watches are from R. 20.- up, cameras - from R. 12.- up, radios - from 15.- up. Bicycles - from R. 50.- to 100.-; motorbikes - from 250.- up; washing machines, refrigerators - from R. 250.-<sup>up</sup> but waiting list is long. It's even longer on cars (from R. 5000.- up).